collected during the two years for a period upto 7 years, as a special case.

(b) Yes, Sir. Orissa Government has given its consent for the implementation of National Agriculture Insurance Scheme which has been introduced from Rabi 1999-2000 and covers all farmers (both loanee and non-loanee), more crops and risks.

Pucca houses along coast of Orissa

2309. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Lack of coordination hits Orissa relief work' appearing in the Asian Age of 16th November, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action plan to quicken the relief measures and building pucca houses along coast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) According to information received from the Government of Orissa, relief and rescue measures in the wake of the Super cyclone of 29th October, 1999 were conducted in close coordination with Government of India and the non Governmental Organisations. After the initial stage of relief and rescue, the State Government is formulating the medium and long-term rehabilitation programmes for the affected areas, including repair/reconstruction of damaged houses.

Central Assistance for Diammonium Phosphate

2310. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to increase the rate of Central Assistance on Diammonium Phosphate was sent by Uttar Pradesh Government on 12th February, 1998 and 26th May, 1998 and

(b) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be approved; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The state Government of Uttar Pradesh in its communication No. 1853/12-2-98 dated 26-5-1998 had stated that urgent intervention of the Government of India was required to declare subsidy admissible on imported Di-Ammonium Phosphate and Muriate of Potash to avoid scarcity situation and consequent inconvenience to farmers.

The Government of India while announcing the Maximum Retail Prices (MRPs) of Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilisers including Di-Ammonium Phosphate for Kharif 1998 season on 2nd April, 1998 had agreed to bear the additional subsidy required to keep the prices pegged at the levels announced. It had also entrusted the work of cost evaluation to the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP), on the basis of which, appropriate rates of concession (subsidy) were to be arrived at. After considering the Report of the BICP, the Government has already announced the enhanced rates of concession for Kharif, 1998.

Special Programme in Orissa to Develop Agriculture

2311. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to launch any special programme to develop agriculture in the cyclone affected areas;

(b) whether the assistance of the agricultural scientists have been sought for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details of the programme proposed to develop agriculture in those areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A contingency plan has been evolved with the assistance of ICAR scientists to boost agricultural production in